

February 22, 2005

## **ANNUAL TEEN GAME SHOW COMPETITION TEACHES “LIFESMARTS”**

BISMARCK – Sixty high school students from across the state will compete in the ninth “LifeSmarts” competition, on Wednesday, February 23, 2005, in Bismarck. The Attorney General’s Office hosts the annual state competition.

LifeSmarts, a program of the National Consumers League, was developed to address the need for more meaningful consumer education for high school students. The competition tests teens in grades 9-12 about personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities.

“The LifeSmarts competition is a fun way for teens to learn some of the basics about consumer rights and obligations, as well as providing them with necessary knowledge to avoid becoming a victim of consumer scams after they turn eighteen,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “The competition is tough and the questions reflect real life situations and decisions,” he continued.

North Dakota high schools competing in the 2005 state competition are:

Bismarck High School, Kensal School, Central Cass High School, Kindred High School, Century High School, North Central of Barnes, Goodrich High School, Pingree Buchanan High School, Ray High School, Sawyer High School, and Jamestown High School (2 teams).

While the Consumer Protection Division organizes and hosts the annual state competition, it does not receive state-funded support. “We have been very lucky to have a number of dedicated businesses across the state that sponsor the competition,” said Parrell Grossman, director of the Consumer Protection Division. Those sponsors include: Microsoft Business Solutions, Fargo; Gate City Bank, Fargo, ND Association of Rural Electric Coops, Mandan; Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc., Bismarck; and Capital Trophy, Bismarck.

The competition will be held at the Heritage Center on the Capitol grounds, beginning at 8:30 am, Wednesday, February 23, and will conclude with the announcement of the championship team at approximately 4:30 pm. The competition is open to the public.

The North Dakota champions will have the opportunity to compete at the national competition, held April 16-19, 2005 in San Francisco.